



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

IM31/0908

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/252,875	02/18/99	026	ANDREWS, M	1742 09/08/99
First Named Applicant	VILLARREAL-TREVINO,	35 USC 154(b) term ext. =	0 Days.	

TITLE OF INVENTION METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING DIRECT REDUCED IRON WITH IMPROVED REDUCING GAS UTILIZATION

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
1	120194-4220A	075-490.000	B16 UTILITY	NO	\$1210.00	12/08/99

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

### HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.  
If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number.  
Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

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Washington, D.C. 20231

OFFICE NUMBER	FILED DATE	VILLARREAL NAME OF APPLICANT	J	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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IM31/0908

EXAMINER  
ANDREWS, M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

09/08/99

DATE MAILED:

### NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY

#### PART I.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ All the claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice Of Allowance And Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be sent in due course.
3. ☒ The allowed claims are 1 to 26.
4. ☒ The drawings filed on 2-18-99 are acceptable.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has [ ] been received. [ ] not been received. [ ] been filed in parent application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
6. ☐ Note the attached Examiner's Amendment.
7. ☐ Note the attached Examiner Interview Summary Record, PTOL-413.
8. ☒ Note the attached Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.
9. ☐ Note the attached NOTICE OF REFERENCES CITED, PTO-892.
10. ☐ Note the attached INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION, PTO-1449.

#### PART II.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE "DATE MAILED" indicated on this form. Failure to timely comply will result in the ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

1. ☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
2. ☐ APPLICANT MUST MAKE THE DRAWING CHANGES INDICATED BELOW IN THE MANNER SET FORTH ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS PAPER.
  - a. ☐ Drawing informalities are indicated on the NOTICE RE PATENT DRAWINGS, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_. CORRECTION IS REQUIRED.
  - b. ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ has been approved by the examiner. CORRECTION IS REQUIRED.
  - c. ☐ Approved drawing corrections are described by the examiner in the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT. CORRECTION IS REQUIRED.
  - d. ☐ Formal drawings are now REQUIRED.

Any response to this letter should include in the upper right hand corner, the following information from the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE: ISSUE BATCH NUMBER, DATE OF THE NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE, AND SERIAL NUMBER.

#### Attachments:

- |                                                                                 |                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Application, PTO-152 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner Interview Summary Record, PTOL-413 | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice re Patent Drawings, PTO-948      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasons for Allowance                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Listing of Bonded Draftsmen             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited, PTO-892         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Citation, PTO-1449   |                                                                  |

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### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Celada-Gonzalez et al discloses a method of producing direct reduced iron with a reducing gas (col.7, line 6 to col.8, line 40) but does not disclose or suggest a method including separating from cooled top gas at least the majority of the hydrogen to form a hydrogen rich gas which is recycled to the reduction reactor or apparatus including a separating device for producing a hydrogen rich output to be pumped to reduction zone

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvyn Andrews whose telephone number is (703) 308-3739. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Prince Willis, Jr., can be reached on (703)-308-3050.

The facsimile phone numbers for "Official Papers" is (703) 305-3599, (703) 305-7718 or (703) 305-5408 and the facsimile phone numbers for "Unofficial Papers" is (703) 305-7719. When filing a FAX in Technology Center 1700, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file, and "Unofficial" for draft documents and other communication with the PTO that are not for entry into the file of the application. This will expedite processing of your papers.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651.

mja  
September 4, 1999

*Melvyn Andrews*  
MELVYN ANDREWS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1300